

FALL OF ST. QUENTIN AND LAON NEAR ALLIES TAKE STRONG POINTS

British in Tremendous Smash Advance Several Miles, Occupying Numerous Villages—French Push Germans Back.

London, April 1.—The two wedges driven into the German line north and south of the important base city of St. Quentin may force its evacuation within the next few hours.

Despatches from British correspondents on the western front report that the Germans have destroyed a large part of St. Quentin by fire and explosives. They add that the Germans have looted all the treasures from private houses, museums and picture galleries. It is believed, according to these advices, that the cathedral up to the present has not been damaged.

The city is menaced by a vigorous onward sweep of Field Marshal Haig's troops south from Peronne and an equally determined French advance in force upward from Ham and Guisard. The rate of speed which these two armies have shown in the last few days seriously threatens St. Quentin on three sides. An improvement in the weather resulted in a tremendous increase in the intensity of the fighting all along the line.

The British have swept forward more than three miles over a seven-mile front toward the city, while the French were battling along headed for the same goal, and both allied forces have penetrated very close to the permanent German defence line. On Saturday the British took five villages and towns, including the important centre of Vermand. The others were Heudicourt, St. Pierre, Marteville and Soyecourt, following the capture of Heudicourt, the British forces made considerable progress east of that point, capturing prisoners and machine guns, and rested for the night.

Heavy fighting took place Sunday west of St. Quentin, resulting in the capture by the British of the village of Savy. Later, British troops attacked Savy wood, about a mile from the village and only two miles from St. Quentin, and occupied that position.

22 RUSSIAN AEROPLANES RAID RUMANIAN PORT

Bombs Were Dropped on the Piers and Docks at Braila, and Great Fires Caused.

Petrograd, April 1.—A squadron of Russian aeroplanes, consisting of 22 machines, made a raid on Braila (Rumania). Bombs were dropped on piers, docks and stores, causing great fires. Harassed by the aeroplanes boats left Braila and sailed up the Danube.

After making repeated attacks Austrian forces yesterday were successful in penetrating the Russian trenches in the region of Kirilibaba, in the South-eastern Carpathians, says the Russian official statement issued to-day, but they were ejected by a Russian counter-attack, and the position was restored. Near Odobechi, Southern Moldavia, a Teuton airship was destroyed by Russian aeroplanes and anti-aircraft guns.

TURKS TRAPPED BEYOND BAGDAD

British and Russians, Working Together, Smash Them.

London, April 1.—A series of Turk defeats and retreats in Mesopotamia is chronicled in official reports from General Maude, breaking the silence of the last fortnight. The Turkish army in Persia and one army in Mesopotamia seem inextricably caught in the British-Russian trap, though the force defeated at Kut has now been reinforced, and has attempted not only a stand 35 miles north of Baghdad, but the envelopment of a British force, with the result that the Turks were defeated and put to flight. This fighting was on Thursday.

The reports cover fighting in several separate, yet related, sectors, which are, roughly, the right, centre, and left wings of General Maude's northward advance. The right wing is east of the Tigris, northeast of Baghdad. The centre is astride the Tigris, 35 miles north of Baghdad; the left is on the Euphrates, west of the Tigris, many miles northwest of Baghdad.

Between the advancing right wing and the Russians pressing to join with it on the Persian border two Turk-

GERMANS EVACUATING ALSACE SAY ADVICES FROM ZURICH

Generally Believed That Here, as on the Somme, Front Will Be Withdrawn.

A despatch from London says: Many officials have left Mulhouse. Daily News despatch from Rotterdam says that persistent reports are being received from Switzerland that the Germans are evacuating Mulhouse and other places in Alsace.

The Zurich correspondent of Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant states that information has reached Zurich that the Germans have been busy here, as on the Somme, the German some days on this operation, front will be withdrawn.

A despatch from London says: The British transport Tyndarus with a battalion of the Middlesex Regiment aboard, struck a mine on February 9 off Cape Aguihas, the southernmost point of Africa. The men were paraded on deck, and after roll-call began to sing while they waited for the ship to sink. The Tyndarus, however, was saved and the troops were transferred to two rescuing steamers, having upheld, as expressed in the official Admiralty report, "the cherished tradition of the Birkenhead."

FRENCH WIN IN CHAMPAGNE POSITIONS LOST MARCH 28

"We Threw Out the Enemy and Captured 63 Prisoners," Says Official Report.

A despatch from Paris says: The French troops in Champagne in a counter-attack have expelled the Germans from positions they captured March 28, according to the French official communication issued to-night. North of the Somme and between the Somme and the Oise the Germans bombarded French positions. The communication says:

"To the west of Maisons de Champagne a spirited counter-attack by our troops permitted us to throw out the enemy from the elements of trenches in which he took a footing on the 28th of March. During this action we captured 63 prisoners."

401 Shells Thrown into Rheims in One Day.

A despatch from Paris says: The city of Rheims for the past few days has been the object of special attack on the part of German artillery. On Wednesday 401 shells were thrown into the city.

Markets of the World TURKS ROUTED IN HOLY LAND

Army of 20,000 Crushing De-feated by British Force.

A despatch from London says: The defeat of a Turkish army of 20,000 men and the capture of 900 soldiers, including the general commanding the enemy's force and the entire divisional staff in the 53rd Turkish division in Palestine was officially reported on Thursday. The battle took place near the historic city of Gaza. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Gaza is 20 miles north of the Egyptian-Syrian boundary and about 48 miles south-west of Jerusalem.

"The New Crusade." The newspapers comment enthusiastically on the British victory, which naturally opens the way for much Biblical and historical reference and comparison. "The New Crusade" and "Fight for the Holy Land" are among the headlines, Jerusalem is assumed in some quarters to be the immediate objective of the invaders.

Other commentators, however, think the British aim first at securing the whole coast of Palestine.

In any case the newspapers consider the blow dealt the Turks near Gaza will seriously cripple the effects of Emperor William's visit to Palestine and his entry into Jerusalem 19 years ago. Of this the Times says:

"The political dreams which led to that visit are now in the process of being shattered. The Holy Land, it would seem, is on the eve of being rescued from the regime which through centuries has held it in bondage."

The manner in which the British have pushed railroads across the desert is considered a remarkable achievement. Apparently hundreds of miles of railroad have been constructed across the desert since last August.

RUSH TO WESTERN LANDS. Figures for the Week Double Those of the Same Week Last Year.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Permanent immigration into Canada for the week ending March 27 more than doubles the returns for the same week last year, according to figures issued on Thursday by Dominion immigration officials. During the week just ended 1,255 persons entered the country to settle on Western lands, as compared with 611 last year. They brought with them actual cash totaling \$185,581. Last year's figures show cash amounting to only \$91,658. Of the total number of people entering during the week 633 were farmers and farm laborers.

MONTREAL FUNERAL CONDUCTED BY BOAT. A despatch from Montreal says: Streets flooded by the Spring thaw necessitated a funeral in Turcot, a suburb of Montreal, being conducted in boats on Thursday. The police, who assumed charge of the funeral arrangements, secured the boats and took them to the home of the deceased. The boat conveying the casket was rowed through the streets, till higher ground was reached by ten boats containing the mourners.

FLLOUR SUBSTITUTE GERMANY DISCOVERY. A despatch from Berlin says: German chemists have discovered a method for making a flour substitute out of linden and beechbuds. They claim that the substitute has the nutritive value of barley flour, with four times its fat percentage.

HUN CANNOT STARVE BRITAIN. Teuton Hopes Are Illusory, Says the First Lord.

A despatch from London says: In answer to questions from the representative of the Associated Press concerning German submarine activities, Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty, said:

"German statements are exaggerated, but no one suggests that the submarine warfare does not cause very serious damage, both to neutrals and belligerents. The losses, however, do not exceed the estimates on which we have based our policy, and after the most careful consideration it is abundantly clear that German hopes of starving us out are quite illusory. So far neutral countries have suffered more from German methods than have belligerents."

WOMAN A FRENCH ATTACHE. Mile. Jeanne Tardy First of Sex to Hold Position.

A despatch from Paris says: M. Metin, Under Secretary of the Ministry of France, has appointed Mile. Jeanne Tardy as an attaché in his department. This will be the first time in the history of France that a woman has held such a position. Mile. Tardy holds university degrees in letters and law.

GRANTED PERMISSION TO LIVE IN CRIMEA. A despatch from Petrograd says: The Government has granted the request of Maria Feodorovna, the former Dowager Empress of Russia, and the mother of the deposed Emperor, to reside at Livadia, in the Crimea.

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ITALY ASKS RESERVE OF 200,000 FROM HER WESTERN ALLIES. Believes Enemy is Preparing to Direct Its Chief Concerted Action Against Her.

A despatch from Rome says: The possibility that the enemy will direct its chief blow against Italy continues to be the principal object of discussion in the Italian press. The Tribune contains a long article by its editor, who argues that the allies must be prepared to support Italy with a reserve army should the Germans join with the Austrians in an offensive on a grand scale. He urges that a complete organization should be established by which a strategic reserve from the western allies of ten or twenty

divisions, with transport, be got ready so that it could be thrown into action at the danger point. He seems to doubt whether the danger of a general attack on the Italian front has been realized by Italy's allies, but it is not clear why he should. Sir William Robertson's visit to Italy should remove this. It may probably be taken for granted if General Cadorna thinks he may require help he has already asked for it. There is no disposition on the part of the allied commands to minimize the importance of the Italian front.

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THAW ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT HALTS "DASH FOR PETROGRAD"

Army of 20,000 Crushing De-feated by British Force.

A despatch from London says: An early Spring thaw on the Russian front, from the Baltic Sea to the Carpathian Mountains, has rendered impossible for the present any attack in force by the Germans against the Russians. This seemingly puts at naught for the time being at least, the report intentions of the Germans to attempt to force their way from the Riga region toward Petrograd. Minor operations are in progress, however.

In Rumania fighting continues in the Uzul Valley region. Here the Germans have captured from the Russians a strongly entrenched ridge, and held it in despite numerous counter-attacks, according to Berlin. One hundred prisoners and machine guns and mine throwers fell into the hands of the Germans.

ADVANCE IN FRANCE 100,000 MORE MEN NORTH OF SOISSONS BY RE-EXAMINATION

Legislation With This Object Made Necessary by the Military Situation.

A despatch from London says: A bill giving the military authorities power to order re-examination of men previously rejected for military service and also of men who already have served and been discharged in consequence of wounds or illness, was moved in the House of Commons on Thursday on second reading by Chancellor Bonar Law. The Chancellor said the bill was an absolute necessity owing to the military situation.

Arrangements were made, last August which it was hoped would give the military authorities the men required, but owing to the submarine menace it had proved impossible to obtain the men expected from agriculture or from the Admiralty and the shipbuilding yards. The recruits obtained, he said, had fallen short of the number estimated by not less than 100,000.

In view of the definite arrangements made, not only by the British Commander-in-Chief, but in conjunction with the French, the Chancellor continued, such a falling off was most serious. To a considerable degree the shortage has been made good by a change in the employment of men in the army itself, and by using behind the lines, to a greater extent than ever before, men unfit to go on the firing line. The shortage has been made good further by employment of women behind the lines, but nevertheless the bill was absolutely necessary.

The Chancellor said it would enable the military authorities to deal with 1,000,000 men, and they estimated that at least 100,000 men would be available within the next three months. They were proceeding on the principle that every fit man should go on the firing line.

RAILWAY WORKERS TO TILL THE FARMS. Arrangements Perfected With Railway Companies in the West.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Realizing the seriousness of the farm labor shortage in the West, the railways have made a joint arrangement by which hundreds of track workers will be available for work on the farms this Spring. The railway companies included in the scheme are the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk Pacific, Canadian Northern, and those of the McArthur interests, the latter including the Hudson Bay contract work. It has been decided by officials of these lines that during the work of Spring seeding, or other necessary farm work, aiming toward more production, the railways will not attempt any work along the line of improvements or betterments.

KAISER WILLIAM IN DOCTOR'S CARE. A news agency despatch from Bern to New York on Wednesday says: Kaiser William is suffering from a mild form of diabetes and is undergoing treatment at Homburg, according to wireless despatches received here. His physicians were said to have given assurances that with a careful regime of treatment they can effect a cure, but worry is said to be retarding the Emperor's recovery.

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5,000 FARM WORKERS WANTED

Britain to Organize for Production to the Last Ounce.

A despatch from London says: "Five thousand skilled American farmers on English soil would go a long way toward combating German's plan to starve us into submission through her submarines," Sir Arthur Lee, head of the newly-formed Food Production Department, told the Associated Press correspondent. "I told you recently," Sir Arthur continued, "that we intended to bring from America some two thousand tractor ploughs for night ploughing. We need the skilled American farmers to supplement them."

Sir Arthur Lee with United States army during the Spanish-American war, and later Military Attaché at the British Embassy in Washington. He has been in service in the present war. His present post is an outgrowth of the intensified submarine warfare begun on February 1. Sir Arthur is charged with the gigantic task of making every available foot of soil produce its maximum amount of food.

"I hope that we may be able to attract to these shores at least five thousand skilled farmers from the United States," said Sir Arthur. "We will, of course, get some skilled agricultural help from Canada—from the great northwest—and we are already benefiting to some extent by the labor of Canadian farmers who have come over to fight for us. But we cannot have too many. Skilled farm labor is our crying need at this moment."

Sir Arthur said the introduction of the American tractors on the large scale contemplated would also witness the more universal employment of women on the land. "I hope to see," he said, "as many of our women cultivating the soil as I saw French women on the land of glorious France during one of my recent visits. There I saw nothing but women. They were everywhere. The picture spoke volumes for France's efforts. Our women are just as patriotic and will fill the gaps on the land if only they are shown the way."

HEAVIEST GUNS STILL IN THE REAR. British Will Not Make General Attack Until These Arrive.

A despatch from London says: The Germans are now entrenched along the front over which the French and British have been advancing, according to a statement on Thursday by Major-General F. D. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office.

He said that whether the positions taken up by the Germans formed the much advertised Hindenburg line would not be revealed until the French and British armies had brought up their heavy artillery.

"Our advance has slackened, owing to the difficulty of feeling the troops in the devastated country," said Gen. Maurice. "We are also suffering from the fact that we must cover the Somme battlefield, while our allies have clearer ground. They also have the advantage of not coming into contact with the enemy in an open distance as our forces, for in making a straight line, the Germans had to withdraw to a greater depth on the French front than ours."

While we are still engaging the Germans in the open there is no doubt they have reached a trench line from which they are not likely to withdraw until we bring up our trench destroying guns. Hence we are hardly likely to know whether this forms the much-advertised Hindenburg line until we are prepared to assault it. In the meantime our forces are not great enough, nor have they had time enough to build an opposing line of trenches."

MAY TAX CANADIANS WHO CROSS BORDER. A despatch from Ottawa says: Some misunderstanding seems to exist as regards the proposed head tax on Canadians entering the United States. It is not a Canadian, but an American regulation. Heretofore, foreigners entering the United States, excepting Canadians, have been subject to the head tax of \$4. There has been no tax on Canadians or on any person who had resided a year or more in this country. Under the new American regulations to take effect May 1 the head tax is increased to \$8 and it is understood it may be applied to Canadians entering the United States for residence. Authorities here are in doubt as to the exact effect of the regulations, but it is understood Canadians visiting the United States may obtain identification cards, otherwise they may have to pay the head tax, which will be refunded if they return within a certain specified period. United States officials here say they have not yet been apprised of the regulations to be framed on the statute.

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